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## Christmas message from Mayor

Kapu Goeysa, Debe Gerger Wabim

As we come together to celebrate Christmas, it's a special time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of this season. Jesus' message of love, compassion and hope continues to inspire us today, reminding us of the power of kindness and the importance of caring for one another.

Christmas is also a time that brings together our faith, our culture and our families. Across the Torres Strait, our traditions, songs and gatherings reflect the deep connection between our spirituality and our way of life.

As we celebrate, we also take a moment to remember those who are not with us this Christmas - our loved ones who have passed on and those who are away from home. They remain in our thoughts and prayers, and their memory continues to live on in our hearts and in the stories we share.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas. May this season bring warmth to your homes, strength to your spirit and blessings for the year ahead.

Merry Christmas and Augathaw Wanab.

# How To Stay on Santa's Nice List

As we head into Christmas and the wet season, it's a time for family, celebration and community, but also a time to do things right. To stay out of Santa's Naughty List, we all need to play our part by being prepared and staying alert. Cyclone and monsoon weather can change quickly, so let's keep safety in mind whether we're out at sea or at home.



## In land:

- Prepare your home: tie down or secure any loose items, clear gutters and drains, and bring inside anything that could blow away.
- Prepare an emergency kit: include a torch, batteries, first aid kit, portable radio, bottled water, canned food, important documents, and any required medication.
- Stay tuned to BOM warnings, Council updates and local radio for the latest weather information.
- Secure moored boats in community and move cars under cover or away from trees.
- Seek shelter indoors, never under trees.
- Watch out for fallen trees and powerlines.
- Charge phones, power banks, and torches before a storm. Unplug appliances if there's a risk of lightning.
- Avoid floodwaters. Never drive or walk through flooded areas. Even shallow water can be dangerous.
- Look out for elders, neighbours and those who may need extra help before and after severe weather.

## If you're going out in the sea:

- Check the weather and tides: only head out when the forecast is favourable.
- Look after your outboard motor and boat: check for any noticeable damage and ensure they are in good condition.
- Check your safety gear: make sure everything's in working order—torch, life jacket, anchor, flares (2 red and 2 orange), fire extinguisher, compass or GPS, and EPIRB.
- Fuel up and carry extra fuel just in case.
- Pack enough water and stay hydrated.
- Make sure everyone on your boat is wearing a properly fitted life jacket at all times.
- Don't overload your boat.
- Notify your family and friends of your voyage.
- Adhere to all maritime safety requirements.

A little preparation goes a long way when the weather changes, and by looking out for one another and caring for our sea and land, we can all enjoy a joyful, peaceful Christmas with the people we love most.

*Merry Christmas !*

- Island Santa



## ARE YOU READY FOR STORM SEASON?

Plan for 5 days when purchasing your supplies  
Consider your families needs

## Junior League Camp Returns to Mabuiag



This initiative highlights the ongoing commitment to youth development and community engagement through sport across the Torres Strait region.

For more information, please contact Camp Manager Larissa Bani at [larissa.bani@tsirc.qld.gov.au](mailto:larissa.bani@tsirc.qld.gov.au) or QRL Contact Rachael Morgan at [r.morgan@qrl.com.au](mailto:r.morgan@qrl.com.au).

**Mabuiag community is once again preparing to host the Junior Rugby League Development Camp, bringing excitement and anticipation across the outer island region.**

Following the success of previous camps, next year's three-day event will be held from 20–22 January 2026, welcoming boys and girls aged 9–12 years. Junior players from across the region will come

together for skills training, friendly games and cultural activities, guided by experienced coaches and mentors.

Local organisers are already busy preparing logistics and community support to ensure another successful event. The camp provides a valuable opportunity for young athletes to learn from experienced coaches and connect with peers.



## Dancing to Keep Culture Alive

**Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival was celebrated this year from 16–20 September, where three dance teams from the TSIRC region participated.**

A standout moment was the performance by Malu Kiwai Kayin Kuwap from Boigu Island, who proudly represented their community. The group featured dancers of all ages – from Elders to children as young as five – showcasing the intergenerational strength of Torres Strait Islander culture. One of their dance items beautifully depicted an Elder teaching the children, highlighting how cultural knowledge and traditions are passed down through generations.



Photo credit to Lewis James Photography

Their performance captivated the audience and celebrated the living strength and pride of our communities. It was a proud moment for the TSIRC region to see all three dance teams sharing and keeping culture alive on such a vibrant stage.

# Looking After Our Islands

Over the past few months our Environmental Health Workers (EHW) team have worked closely with Biosecurity Queensland to safeguard our islands from pests and environmental threats. The joint teams have been particularly active in fruit fly monitoring and prevention, responding to toad sightings, and ongoing inspection of freight on Sea Swift barges to protect our islands.

## Keeping Fruit Fly Out

Fruit fly remains one of the most serious threats to our local fruit and vegetable production. Working alongside Biosecurity officers, our EHW have been setting and monitoring traps and blocks, inspecting freight, and sharing information with local communities to help keep the islands free from infestation. The team's focus is ensuring that any potential incursion can be stopped before it spreads.

## Responding to Toad Sightings

Recent reports of cane toad sightings have prompted swift action from our team. Toads pose a major risk to native wildlife, water sources and pets. Our EHW in collaboration with the Rangers are working with community members to confirm reports, collect samples and



increase surveillance in high-risk areas. Education materials and response guidelines are also being shared to help residents identify and safely report any sightings.

## Sea Swift Barge Freight Inspections

To support ongoing biosecurity vigilance, the team is conducting regular inspections of Sea Swift barges and freight between the islands and mainland. These checks help ensure no unwanted pests or invasive species are introduced during transport. Collaboration between Council, Sea Swift and Biosecurity Queensland highlights our shared responsibility to keep the islands safe.

## EHW Training

Over the past few months, Environmental Health Workers have completed several training and development programs, including the Certificate IV in Animal Regulation and Management, Certificate III in Indigenous Environmental Health, the bi-annual Environment and Health workshop, and Pest Management and Authorised Officer (Local Government) training.



## Thank you!

Spotting and reporting unusual insects, animals, or plant material can make a big difference in preventing biosecurity breaches. Our Environmental Health Workers warmly thank community members and freight operators for their continued vigilance. .



Councillor  
John Levi

DIVISION 7  
WUG

First, I would like to acknowledge our Heavenly Father for his continual leadership and guidance over the length and breadth of Zenardth Kes, ume Region we call home. I also acknowledge all Traditional Owners from Murray in the East to Boigu in the West, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

My name is Councillor John Levi, and I represent Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls) on Mua Island. I’m currently serving my third term as Councillor, and I feel truly grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the community I call home.

My ambitions are well captured in our Regional Council’s vision and mission,

to be autonomous, prosperous and sustainable, and to continually improve our liveability in all that we do.

I also believe the *Malungu Yangu Wakay* (Voice from the Deep) captures a sound that comes from grassroot level. It represents the voice and our people and it’s now being heard within the political space.

We are aiming to achieve self determination and a better pathway forward for youme Torres Strait and NPA peoples. This is something I’m passionate about continuing to support and I believe can only be achieved through better governance structure for our region.

I want to see our communities grow stronger through good governance and smart investment. It’s important that more financial resources flow into our region to truly meet the needs and aspirations of our people.

In my community, key challenges include improving consistent service delivery and creating better job and career pathways. I’m committed to working closely with Council and other stakeholders to address these issues and create lasting opportunities that empower our next generation. I would like to see a full review or audit of services across the Outer and Inner Islands and the NPA region. This would help ensure accountability and transparency, making sure every dollar that comes into the region is being used effectively to close the gap and build a better future for our communities.

Outside of my role, I enjoy fishing, darts and gardening – activities that keep me grounded, connected to nature, and in touch with the simple joys of island life.

As we approach the end of 2025, I wish you all the very best in going forward, for you, your families and your communities. Have a safe, joyful Christmas and a bright, prosperous 2026. God bless.

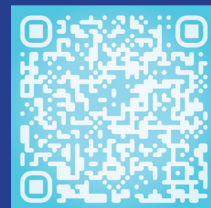
## useful Facts

### Licence Agreements

Licence agreements are generally short-term agreements for the use of spaces including, offices, demountable buildings, storage spaces and community halls. A Licence Agreement is a non-exclusive agreement which gives someone permission to use a particular space, but it does not grant full or exclusive use like a lease does. TSIRC has a set schedule of fees for licences. The Local Government Act 2009 allows TSIRC as local government the power to “charge for a service or facility”

Contact your Divisional Manager for more information on licences.

MORE INFORMATION



# yumi ilun Business

## YUMI ILUN YARN

### Kodakal Catering and Bakery Services: From Family Cooking to Local Business

In 2018, Josephine David from Yam Island decided to turn her love of cooking into a small business. That's how Kodakal Catering and Bakery Services began.

The idea first came from family gatherings, where Josephine and her relatives enjoyed cooking for one another. Over time, the thought of sharing those meals with the



wider community grew stronger and eventually became reality when she opened Kodakal Catering and Bakery Services in 2018.

The bakery side of her business operates on Saturdays and Sundays, offering both pick-up and delivery options for local customers. Some of the most popular items include Sabi (coconut) buns, Garlic buns & Ham and Cheese Scrolls.

Kodakal also provides catering services for community events such as graduations, birthdays, and tombstone openings, as well as for meetings and functions hosted by government organisations. The team caters for breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner, mainly serving clients on Yam. Signature dishes like fish or chicken coconut curries, Simurr Chicken and Amai dishes have become well-recognised parts of their menu.

While business keeps her busy, Josephine is already thinking ahead. She is open to travelling wherever her food is needed as she hopes to expand



her catering services to other islands across the Torres Strait.

Community members can contact Kodakal Catering and Bakery Services via Facebook at Kodakal Kaikai Place or by phone on 0437 664 796 both for bakery orders and catering enquiries.

## CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

Offices will close from midday Wednesday 24th December 2025,  
with operations reopening on Friday 2nd January 2026.

# Kai Kai CORNER



## KAFFIR LIME SABE FISH

*by Kathy Cochran*

### Ingredients:

- Mackerel (marinate in some fish oil)
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- 1 small onion (sliced thinly)
- 2 teaspoons of crushed garlic
- 2 teaspoon of crushed ginger
- 1 lemon grass stalk (bruised)
- 3 kaffir lime leave (bruised)
- 1 teaspoon of chicken stock powder
- 1 tablespoon of fish sauce
- 1 tablespoon of oyster sauce
- 1 tin of coconut milk/cream
- 1 teaspoon of corn flour
- 1/2 cup of water
- Bok choy
- Lime (cut into wedges)

### Instructions:

1. In a large pan, add oil, onion, garlic, ginger, chicken stock powder, lemongrass stalk and kaffir lime. Sauté on medium heat until onion is clear.
2. Add fish sauce, oyster sauce and coconut milk/cream. Heat mixture through but do not let it boil.
3. Dust mackerel in a little flour and add to the coconut mixture.
4. Simmer for 15 minutes, turn fish halfway through (do not let mixture boil).
5. Mix the cornflour with 1/2 cup of water and stir it into the sauce to thicken slightly.
6. Serve with rice, steamed bok choy and lime juice (optional) to taste.

*Mattha nice!!  
Enjoy!!*



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Get involved with Council



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REGIONAL COUNCIL